(b) whether it is a fact that this increase has adversly affected the newspaper industry ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARI) : (a) Government does not exercise any statutory control on the prices of newsprint. The mills have revised the prices of indigenous newsprint in May/June, 1989 reportedly on the ground of increasing cost of production and for maintaining their financial viability. The price of imported newsprint is fixed by the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee in which, among others, newspaper industry is adequately represented.

(b) The newspaper industry has been claiming that it is not in a position to compensate the higher costs as a result of the increase in the prices of the newsprint by increasing their subscription and advertisement rates.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

शहरी विकास बैंक की स्थापना

375. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार नगर पालिकाओं और टाऊन एरिया समितियों को आवश्यक वित्तीय संसाधन मुहैया कराने के लिए शहरी विकास बैंक की स्थापना करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह) : (क) और (ख) यह मामला सरकार के पास सक्रिय रूप से विचाराधीन है।

Shortage of pig iron

376. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of pig iron in the country, leading to closure of a number of foundries, particularly in the small-scale sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is an improvement in the availability of pig iron during the current financial year. No precise information is available about closure of foundries.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds for Jawaharlal Nehru Rozgar Yojna

377. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have launched the Jawaharlal Nehru Rozgar Yojana recently ;

(b) if so, what are the amounts released under the Yojana so far, State-wise ; and

(c) what is the mechanism deviced for spending this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.